

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Congressman Dent calls for funding troops without partisan politics

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) joined several of his Republican colleagues in urging Democratic leadership to put the needs of our troops first in the FY07 Iraq War Supplemental bill.

Congressman Dent signed a letter with nine colleagues, led by Rep. Mike Castle of Delaware, asking Speaker Pelosi and Appropriations Chairman David Obey to consider removing unnecessary spending and an arbitrary troop withdrawal timeframe from the bill. The text of the letter is below:

Dear Madame Speaker and Chairman Obey:

Our soldiers are risking their lives and it is vital that we provide them with the tools and equipment they have requested. It is our duty to ensure our military has the resources it deems necessary to protect our brave soldiers serving in harm's way and to assure our troops — from general officers down to the privates fresh out of boot camp — that we will continue to support them.

Army officials have warned that disruptive changes in day-to-day operations will occur without immediate supplemental funding. Unfortunately, the bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee on March 15th includes billions of dollars and unrelated provisions not

requested by the Administration or our military leaders, which have the potential to obstruct passage of this vital emergency funding.

President Bush has issued a veto threat as a result of the inclusion of non-emergency spending and policy proposals, and a large number of Members from both sides of the aisle have expressed concern over these provisions. While such proposals may warrant consideration on the House floor under different circumstances, this body should not hold critical funding in limbo in order to force political votes. For example, we are concerned that setting an arbitrary timeline for withdrawal would tie the hands of our commanders in the field and assuredly lead to an impasse with the White House, which in turn will further delay this crucial funding.

When it comes to emergency funding for our soldiers, we can not afford to waste precious time arguing over political proposals.

Sincerely,

Michael Castle
Mark Kirk
Charlie Dent
Jim Gerlach
Randy Kuhl
Tom Petri
Todd Platts
Fred Upton
Phil English
Judy Biggert

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